

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DEC 5 - 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the matter of)
)
SIERRA DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)
) **RM-9189**
Petition for Rule Making to Accommodate)
Point-to-point Operations in the 24 GHz Band)
Under Part 15 of the Commission's Rules)

**COMMENTS IN SUPPORT
OF
PETITION FOR RULE MAKING**

Metricom, Inc. ("Metricom"), by its attorneys, hereby files these Comments in support of the Petition For Rule Making filed by Sierra Digital Communications, Inc. ("Sierra Digital") concerning the accommodation of point-to-point operations in the 24 GHz frequency band pursuant to Part 15 of the Commission's rules (47 U.S.C. § 15.01 *et seq.*). Metricom supports the Sierra Digital proposal because it will provide for technologically innovative operations with no adverse impact on other users of the band. Metricom does not agree, however, with the Sierra Digital proposal which suggests that users of this technology may "tune into the 24.00-24.05 GHz sub-band only if all other frequencies are in use or otherwise unavailable" (footnote omitted). Metricom submits that there is no reason to place this condition on proposed Part 15 operations.

Metricom is a young, rapidly growing, technologically innovative company based in Silicon Valley. Encouraged by Commission actions in various Part 15 proceedings, Metricom is a pioneer in the development of state-of-the-art, Part 15, frequency hopping, spread spectrum

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packet radio systems. Accordingly, Metricom supports efforts for Part 15 innovation and has steadfastly taken the position before the Commission that technical rules for Part 15 bands must be simple and flexible, with no unnecessary regulation, in order to allow technology to develop to its full potential in these bands.

The Sierra Digital petition presents an opportunity for another innovative use of Part 15 spectrum. Metricom agrees with Sierra Digital's technical analyses and position that any potential interference as a result of the proposed operations would be negligible.¹ Furthermore, in the unlikely event that harmful interference does occur, it could be easily remedied in the field. The proposed operations will, therefore, greatly benefit the public by allowing new technology to develop, increase available services and enhance competition, all without causing any harm to other users of the band.

Because Metricom believes that any interference created by the proposed service would be negligible, it does not believe there is any legitimate reason to make the 24.00-24.05 GHz frequency band available only as a last resort for Part 15 operations. Such a reservation has the effect of "channelizing" the band and unnecessarily limits proposed operations in that portion of the band. Channelizing Part 15 bands is antithetical to the Commission's regulatory policy regarding Part 15 operations. There is, therefore, no reason to erect an unnecessary regulatory barrier.

¹ Metricom agrees with Sierra Digital's assertion that the area of interference created by the present rules will not be increased by the proposed operations.

WHEREFORE, Metricom urges the Commission to adopt the proposal of Sierra Digital in this proceeding, and to assure that the proposed operations are unconditionally authorized throughout the Part 15, 24 GHz band.

Respectfully submitted,

METRICOM, INC.

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Dated: December 5, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Candice Eliopoulos, do hereby certify that on this 5th day of December, 1997, copies of the foregoing Comments in Support of the Petition for Rulemaking filed by Sierra Digital Communications, Inc. were served upon the following:

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